Name of the Bank	Name of the person	Address
United Bank of India	Miss M. Siddiqui	4854, Gali Derzian, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi.
Vijaya Bank	Shri Aziz Lalani	D-2, Sangam Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Opp. Strand Cinema, Colaba, Bombay.

Bridge Loans Allowed by Banks/FIs

2373. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of bridge loans allowed by Banks/FIs against Right-cum-Public issue of first ten top industrial groups of the country;

(b) whether the loans have become sticky;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any of the above banks/FIs was connected with the issue either as merchant banker, Lead Manager or as a banker of the company; and

(e) whether U.T.I. IDBI/or any foreign bank/ nationalised bank withheld the sanction of bridge loan to the above issues; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that its data reporting system does not generate such information. However, as per information available with RBI, 315 bridge loans aggregating to Rs. 1319.02 crore were disbursed by seven major banks (Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India and Union Bank of India) against public issue during April, 1994 to March 1995.

It may be added that bridge loans by banks/ financial institutions to all companies (including finance companies) against their public issues were banned with effect from April 20, 1995. However, RBI have on October 16, 1995 advised banks that they may consider sanction of bridge loans/interim finance against commitment made by a financial instituion and/ or another bank only in cases where lending institution faces temporary liquidity constraint and subject to certain conditions. Bridge loan against public issues, however, continue to be banned.

Deposit-credit Ratio of Public Sector Banks in Bihar

2374. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the deposit-credit ratio of public sector banks in the State of Bihar during the last three years alongwith the all India average for these years; and

(b) the percentage of credit extended to the people of 18 districts of Jharkhand in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Cedit Deposit Ratio of all scheduled commercial banks in Bihar as at the end of March 1993, 1994 and 1995 alongwith All India average as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given below:—

Year	Credit Deposit Ratio (% age)	
As at the end of March	Bihar	All India
1993	38.8	60.5
1994	36.1	56.6
1995	33.2	59.2

(b) The amount of credit extended under Annual Credit Plan by Commercial Banks in 18 Districts in Jharkhand Region in Bihar during the year 1994-95 as reported by Reserve Bank of India is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Credit extended under Annual Credit Plan by Commercial Banks in the districts of Jharkhand Region in Bihar during the year 1994-95

Name of the districts in the Jharkhand Region	Year 1994-95 (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Damka	503.00
2. Deoghar	538.45
3. Godda	179.00
4. Sahebgang	311.00
5. Pakur	160.13
6. Hazaribagh	266.62
7. Kodarma	(-)
8. Chatra	76.79
9. Giridih	477.77
10. Dhanbad	958.01
11. Bokaro	1247.11
12. Ranchi	2867.52
13. Gumla	260.01
14. Lohardaga	83.05
15. Singhbhum (W)	757.52
16. Singhbhum (E)	690.75
17. Palamau	690.83
18. Grahwa	228.15

(-) District was not in existence.

Clearance to consignment of Hashish by Customs Authorities

2375. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the custom authorities cleared a consignment of 423 kg. of hashish in July, 1996 at the Indira Gandhi International Airport which was seized by it earlier;

(b) if so, the reasons for clearing the consignment;

(c) whether a bogus export firm is stated to have got the consignment cleared;

(d) if so, whether the bogus export firm has been identified and brought to book; and

(e) whether the lapses on the part of the custom authorities have been enquired into and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) There was a report in Delhi edition of Indian Express dated 18.7.96 regarding seizure of hashish in Toronto, Canada from a consignment of goods exported from New Delhi. Narcotics Control Bureau has taken up further investigations in the matter and are in touch with the Canadian Authorities. The investigations are in progress. Information sought shall be laid on the Table of the House after completion of investigations.

Rise in prices despite decline in inflation

2376. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 100 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th July, 1996 and state;

(a) whether it is a fact that prices continue to rise while inflation dipped to all time low in May-June, this year;

(b) if so, the reigning prices of different essential commodities, especially consumer items at each week-end; and

(c) the main reasons for continued rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) During May-June, 1996 the annual rise in prices (inflation) was less than 5% but the rise in the prices of essential commodities ranged from allow 3.4% to a high 9.1%. The magnitude of annual increase in selected essential commodities is listed below in Table-I (*See* below).

(c) The rise in prices of some essential commodities is partly seasonal in nature or due to a marginal production short-fall in some commodities such as wheat and also due to upward revision in minimum support/ procurement prices.